2. (Twice amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the coupler has a detector for recognizing whether the received signaling message is addressed to the switch, and to process the message accordingly, and a translator for replacing the receive flag with the predetermined character string if the switch is not itself the destination.

3. (Twice amended) A method of sending a signaling message by a switch, the method comprising the following steps:

a predetermined character string corresponding to a predetermined send order for said signaling message is added to said signaling message, said adding including receiving a signaling message in a receiving exchange and adding a receive flag thereto; and

said send order is interpreted in an interpreter of a switch to produce a signaling configuration of said switch, the signaling configuration depending on the signaling resources available to the switch.

4. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein, to add the predetermined character string to the signaling message:

the destination of said signaling message is tested; and

if a destination of the signaling message is different from said receiving exchange, the flag is replaced by said predetermined character string.